

REMARKS

Claims 18 through 20, 24 and 25 remain pending. Claims 18 and 24 are hereby amended. Applicants also wish to thank the Examiner for granting an Interview on November 25, 2008.

Claims 18 – 20, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,727,171 (issued Mar. 10, 1998) to Iachetta, [hereinafter “Iachetta”], in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,141,715 (issued Oct. 31, 2000) to Porterfield, [hereinafter “Porterfield”], U.S. Patent No. 5,859,988 (issued Jan. 12, 1999) to Ajanovic, et al [hereinafter “Ajanovic”] and U.S. Patent No. 5,392,407 (issued Feb. 21, 1995) to Heil et al. [herinafter “Heil”].

Summary of the Examiner Interview of November 25, 2008

A telephonic Applicant initiated Examiner Interview was held on November 25th, 2008 between Examiner Khanh Dang and Joseph T. Cygan, attorney of record.

Applicants referenced the discussion of the Applicants’ arguments provided in the September 8th, 2008 Final Office Action and noted that the Examiner pointed out that, “claim 18 does not require that the separate bus is “coupled” to the I/O controller or PCI bridge [because] Claim 18 only requires that the I/O controller is in communication with the “separate bus.”” See Final Office Action, page 12.

The Applicants have therefore amended claim 18 to recite the that “wherein the input controller is further coupled to a separate bus that is not coupled to the low speed bus arbiter and wherein the separate bus is coupled to a data storage device.” Claim 24 has been similarly amended.

The Examiner agreed that the amended claims patentably distinguish over the cited references and that the amended claims are allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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